



Local Public Health Recommendations for the Screening, Exclusion, and Re-Admittance of Students and Staff for COVID-19 in Schools

The following symptom screening criteria for students and staff is based on the most current research. Because people with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms, from mild or no symptoms to severe illness, the following criteria has been developed to assist schools in identifying and readmitting those positive for COVID-19.

1. Someone with two of the following: fever (measured or reported), chills & shivering, muscle aches, congestion or runny nose, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea
- OR
2. At least one of the following: new cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, loss of taste and smell
- OR
3. At least one symptom listed in #1 or #2 above and answers yes to: Have you recently spent time with someone in quarantine for or who had symptoms of COVID-19?

Students and staff who screen positive should be immediately isolated in the designated area and sent home as soon as possible. Require the symptomatic person to wear a cloth or surgical mask while waiting, if tolerable.

Re-Admittance to School

Symptomatic staff/student who tests positive:

Exclude for 10* days from symptom onset AND only allow to return 24 hours after fever resolution (if present) without fever reducing medications AND improved symptoms.

Symptomatic staff/student not tested:

Exclude for 10* days from symptom onset AND only allow to return 24 hours after fever resolution (if present) without fever-reducing medications AND improved symptoms. May return to school if a doctor establishes an alternative diagnosis, provides a doctor's note approving return to school, and meets the school's requirements for readmission.

Symptomatic staff/student who tests negative:**

Exclude until fever has resolved for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications (or meets the school's requirements for readmission) AND improved symptoms.

Staff/student who tests positive without symptoms:

Exclude for 10 days from date of test and then can return if no symptoms have developed.

Someone who has tested positive does NOT need a subsequent negative test to return to school.

The above algorithm uses a time and symptom-based strategy and follows CDC guidance for release from isolation. If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, please call Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department at (402) 375 - 2200.

*This length of time may need to be extended for people who have severe illness or are immunocompromised, please consult NNPHD or the health care provider for further guidance on those situations.

**Depending on type of test used (Antigen versus PCR), please consult your local health department for additional guidance.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>

<https://www.nndss.cdc.gov/conditions/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/case-definition/2020/>

Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department
Adapted from the Douglas County Health Department

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